



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2026; 9:00AM CT

Contact: Ashley Williams, Kentuck Art
Center
Email: awilliams@kentuck.org
Phone: (205)-758-1257

**Kentuck at Queen City to Host Folk Artist Abe Partridge for Exhibition
and Concert**

*The opening reception of "With Signs Following" is on March 6, followed by
an acoustic performance on March 7*

Tuscaloosa, Ala. – "With Signs Following," an exhibition of works by musician and folk artist Abe Partridge, will open to the public at Kentuck at Queen City on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 5 p.m., coinciding with March's First Friday Artwalk. Curated by elizabet elliott, the exhibition includes paintings by Partridge, as well as art and ephemera collected on his journey within the communities of Appalachian religious snake-handling.

Based in Mobile, Alabama, Abe Partridge is fundamentally a storyteller whose heady mix of backwoods baptismal and back alley punk rock is evident in his music and paintings. In 2018, Partridge's album "Cotton Fields and Blood For Days" led him to national and international acclaim for music. His music career inadvertently opened the door for an otherwise unseen art practice that functions the same in many ways as his music: utilizing folk traditions to drive new and urgent conversations that expand parameters of Southern identity.

Unable to tour musically during the pandemic, Partridge began making regular visits to several communities in Appalachia, even taking communion in underground snake-handling churches. There he discovered a whole genre of undocumented music, as well as rituals and stories handed down from generations. Partridge's background as a rural Baptist preacher, and his own experience of a crisis/conversion of faith allowed him to build strong bonds with the deeply religious, yet often guarded, communities he visited. After about 2 years, he was given their blessing to document his experiences and began creating a new body of work telling the stories and crowning the heroes of a mostly unknown and—for most folks—unknowable community. This exhibition is a visual account of the experiences, music, rituals, and stories that called Abe back into the rural landscape he thought he left. "With Signs Following" celebrates the deep humanity and dignity of places far off the beaten path.

Alongside the creation of the pieces in the exhibition, Abe recorded an 8-hour podcast titled "Alabama Astronaut." Produced by Ferrill Gibbs, the podcast was released in September of 2022, debuting in the Top Ten Documentary Podcasts on Apple Podcasts, and is now available on most digital platforms.

Event information:

First Friday Opening Reception

March 6, 2026 | 5-8 p.m. | Kentuck at Queen City | Free and family-friendly artist and curator talks at 6:00 p.m.

Details about the exhibition: kentuck.org/abe-partridge-with-signs-following

An Acoustic Evening with Abe Partridge

March 7, 2026 | 6-8 p.m. | Kentuck at Queen City | Tickets: \$35

Space is limited. Get tickets: kentuck.org/acoustic-evening-with-abe-partridge

"Abe Partridge's work is a powerful testament to the strength and vitality of folk art in Alabama, and we are proud to welcome the community to experience both his visual art and music," said Exa Skinner, executive director of Kentuck Art Center and Festival. "Opportunities like this are possible because of our recent expansion to Kentuck at Queen City, which creates new opportunities to bring exceptional artists and meaningful cultural moments to Tuscaloosa."

"With Signs Following" was originated in 2023 by Alabama Contemporary Art Center in Mobile, Alabama. Kentuck's 2026 exhibition season is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

For more information, visit kentuck.org, abepartridge.com, or alabamaastronaut.com.





Kentuck Art Center and Festival was established in 1971. Kentuck's mission is to perpetuate the arts, engage the community, and empower the artist. The Kentuck Festival of the Arts is nationally recognized for its quality, diversity, and celebration of artistic style ranging from folk to contemporary arts and traditional crafts. The 55th Kentuck Festival of the Arts is October 17-18, 2026 at Snow Hinton Park in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

###

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}

